

**MINUTES OF LOWCA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2015
AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Lowca Parish Councillors

Mr B Ennis
Miss M J Oliver
Mr J Crawford
Mr H Thinnesen
Mrs V Stafford
Mrs M Moore

Parish Clerk

Mr M Milner

Copeland District and Cumbria County Councillors

Gillian Troughton CBC & CCC

Apologises

Mrs A Oliver
Mr T Milligan
Mrs E Walker
Jackie Bowman CBC
John Bowman CBC

Meeting Opened:

The chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.

192.00 Apologises.

Duly noted as above.

193.00 Declaration of Interests

None

194.00 To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 21st October, as a true record.

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr M.M and seconded by Cllr V.S. The vote by show of hands was unanimous for approval, by those who were at October meeting.

195.00 Police Matters.

195.01 Clerk read report supplied PCSO Hollie Dennis. There were no further comments to be reported back to the police.

196.00 Applications for Development.

None

197.00 County and District Councillors Reports

197.01 CCC GT reported she had attended a meeting with Nu Gen and that there was not much to advise other than next consultation round would be early in 2016.

197.02 Flooding between Lowca and St Bridget’s church was probably due to collapsed pipe work, the drain people will have to put a camera down and investigate and then report to CCC.

197.03 Discussion about A595, GT pointed out that any planning permission about Moorside was not a CCC decision as it was a major government project. Therefore central government could approve the project without changing the road system locally. The thinking is that the development will involve providing local temporary accommodation to Moorside for assembly workers; so long term there will be no local road problems. Sea and rail are proposed for supplies. There is a meeting 26th November at Egremont and Cllr HT along with Cllr TM will attend to put Lowca’s case that there are traffic problems with the A595 in the Lowca and surrounding areas.

197.04 The left turn only cones at the exit from Lowca were supposed to be in place for 3 weeks, they lasted less than a week. GT to investigate.

197.05 Cllr JC asked what the situation was about refugees from Syria. GT advised that to her knowledge 30 individuals would be accommodated in Cumbria. Copeland had been allocated only 5. When they would arrive was not known.

Cllr Mercia Oliver joined the meeting at 8pm.

At the end of this agenda item Chairman BE thanked GT for her contribution. She opted to remain for the rest of the meeting with the Chair’s approval.

198.00 Lowca’s Retention and disposal of documents policy. Office equipment.

198.01 The clerk had circulated a document setting out a policy to deal with parish council documents. He had been presented in July 2014 with an enormous quantity of minutes and documents going back to 1985. He was to take the minutes to the county archive storage facility in Whitehaven and shred and dispose of the other documents as detailed in his circulated document.

198.02 Clerk to apply for funding from NALC for a parish council laptop and printer/ scanner for current and future clerk’s use as parish office equipment specifically for Lowca parish business. Cllr JC proposed and Cllr MM seconded that the clerk’s document be adopted by the council as policy and that the clerk also request funding for the office equipment. The equipment to be retained at clerk’s personal residence and PC’s insurance to be checked to ensure it was insured. The councillors unanimously approved the proposal.

198.00 Bank account mandate signature amendments

198.01 Clerk advised it was now common practice for councils to have more than just 2 of 3 councillors to sign the cheques. Also internet banking was being adopted by councils, it saved cheque writing and limits can be put in place.

198.02 Councillors discussed increasing the cheque signatures and allowing the clerk to put in place internet banking, with a £500 limit per day. Cllr MM proposed the approval of the increased signature numbers and that internet banking be adopted; this was seconded by Cllr HT. It was approved unanimously.

199.00 Play area and bus shelter questionnaire response and further action.

199.01 The bus shelter questionnaire had been returned by 23 individuals. Not one dissenting comment, majority thought it would benefit the school children and those travelling to work helping to keep them dry so they did not spend hours in wet clothing.

199.02 The play area brought 34 responses, again all supporting the project and numerous suggestions as to what would be liked by the children. The council noted the suggestions and there will be a meeting with the Lowca school children to hear their specific requests, before firming up on final equipment requirements and prices from play area providers.

199.03 It was decided that clerk to get bus shelter costings and put the item on the December agenda.

200.00 North Copeland Coastline Project & Lowca's Coastal Pathway.

200.01 Cllr MO reported to the council about the meetings she and the clerk have had on the project with the consultants and other interested parties. On Tuesday 17th November she had held an open meeting at Lowca School and had a lengthy wish list for the coastal route from Lowca's boundary with Parton to the Harrington boundary, including treasure hunts as per Whinlatter Pass, tarmac pathway, picnic area, litter bins, dog bins in fact a lengthy wish list. There is another meeting of the Copeland Coastline Project committee with the consultants on Monday 7th December at the Haig Museum at 10am. At that meeting Cllr MO and the clerk will put forward some firmed up proposals, with costings and details of groups in the area who will be involved and how the community will benefit from the development if the funding was made available.

201.00 Progress Report, Clerk

201.01 Letter sent to Minister of State about potential Police cut backs with copies to Cumbria Chief Constable, Cumbria Police Commissioner and Jamie Reed MP. All three have acknowledged and thanked Lowca for its support against the possible cuts.

201.02 Minute 182.03, page 37 refers, clerk and Cllr TM attended the Howgate meeting on 27th Oct. National Grid and Electricity North West presented a joint presentation about the new pylon route from the proposed Moorside nuclear power station. The existing 132Kv line running through will not be dismantled, but it will be either renewed or refurbished to be part of the power distribution structure within the local area of Copeland. Further public consultations are to take place in 2016.

201.03 Minute 183.02 page 37 refers, clerk produced an HMRC document dated 2010 confirming that all parish clerks must be council employees and the council collect and make appropriate tax and Ni contributions where appropriate to HMRC. Clerks no longer can be self-employed.

201.04 Clerk proposes to organise for the printing and distribution of the December Christmas edition of the Lowca Lowdown for week commencing 7th December. He will liaise with Mark Johnson for Welfare club festive period schedule. He has Remembrance photos from this year’s ceremony at Lowca War Memorial. Plenty of material for the Lowdown and it may extend from 12 to 16 pages to accommodate it all. The print cost will go from £120 to £160 if pages increase.

202.00 Councillors Reports.

202.01 Cllr BE reported back on the meeting he and Cllr TM had attended about highways in Cumbria and the local A595 in particular. No progress and there is to be another meeting on the A595 on 26th November at Egremont market hall. It was agreed that Cllr HT and Cllr TM would attend to put forward Lowca’s concerns.

202.02 The chairman Cllr BE announced to the meeting that with affect from the end of this meeting he was standing down from both the chairmanship of the Lowca parish council and also resigning as a parish councillor. He tendered his written resignation. Cllr JC asked if he would reconsider his resignation, but Cllr BE was adamant that after 23 years as a parish councillor, he was first co-opted on 18th November 1992, he was stepping down forthwith.

202.03 Cllr MM followed the chairman’s resignation from the council by announcing that she was also resigning from Lowca parish council at the conclusion of the current meeting.

203.00 Correspondence

203.01 Annual rough sleepers count. Clerk advised that he had request for rough sleepers’ numbers in Lowca, if appropriate. The date for count was last night 17th November. No councillor was aware of any, so the clerk will advise NIL.

203.02 Letter from Frizington Fire Station about its possible closure due to government proposed budget cut backs.

203.03 Clerk had been engaged in correspondence with residents in Meadow View about street lighting not working on the field side of the residential properties. Copeland has replaced one broken light which is now functioning. However the other light fitting, No 56, outside 25 Meadow View is beyond repair and needs replacing. Copeland had today advised the clerk that the cost to replace the bracket and get it functional would be £996.54p with an annual ongoing maintenance and utility cost of £120 per annum. Was Lowca PC prepared to pay the repair cost and take on the annual running cost? Councillors pointed out that over the past few years there had been other requests for replacing broken street lights, some of those replacement costs exceeding £2500. All previous requests for financial support for such projects had been refused as the council do not have the finances to fund such expenditure. Clerk to advise Copeland that Lowca would not be financing the replacement.

203.04 Invitations to all Lowca parish councillors had been circulated with the agenda for this meeting to the Licensing of the new priest for St Bridget's church, the Rev Paul Kerry.

203.05 Invite received for Three Tiers meeting to be held on 26th November 2015 at 6pm at Egremont market hall. See 202.01. & 197.03.

204.00 Cheques for signing.

- 204.01. 100332 Brian Ennis £34.00 2 Remembrance Day Wreaths
- 204.02. 100333 Printpoint £17.50 350 A4 Flyers coastal pathway promo
- 204.03. 100334 M Milner £326.35 (Salary £259.30, Exp' £67.05.)
- 204.04. 100335 HMRC(payable to Post Office) £45.20 clerk's PAYE deduction

Meeting closed 9.02pm

205.00 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 16th December 2015 at 7.30pm Lowca Village Hall.